

February 3, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Commission Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 – 12th Street, SW, CY-B402
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Proceeding 03-16

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I support SBC Michigan's efforts to gain long distance approval. Michigan's competitive local telephone market is thriving. Companies like MCI WorldCom, AT&T, TDS Metrocom and the state's many other local providers all offer competitive local phone packages. The long distance market should reflect these same benefits.

Michigan consumers are losing out on valuable savings and choices because there are not incentives for long distance competition. Right now, lack of competition among long distance providers keeps prices in Michigan higher than in other states and consumers are paying the price. SBC's entry into Michigan's long distance market will force other phone companies to offer competitive packages and prices.

Several states including Texas and New York already are enjoying the benefits of full competition. I hope SBC Ameritech is approved to offer long distance so Michigan consumers can enjoy lower phone bills, one stop shopping and more choices for local and long distance telephone service.

Sincerely,

Ellen M. James